THE

TRUE CAUSES

OF OUR PRESENT

DISTRESS FOR PROVISIONS;

WITH A

NATURAL, EASY, AND EFFECTUAL PLAN,

FOR THE FUTURE

PREVENTION OF SO GREAT A CALAMITY.

WITH

SOME HINTS RESPECTING THE ABSOLUTE NECESSITY OF

AN ENCREASED POPULATION.

BY

WILLIAM BROOKE, F.S.A.

LONDON:

PRINTED BY C. WHITTINGHAM,
Dean Street, Fetter Lane,
FOR H. D. SYMONDS, PATERNOSTER-ROW; W. J. & J. RICHARDSON, ROYAL EXCHANGE; AND J. WRIGHT, PICCADILLY,

1800.

44.
3. 29
373.

TO

THE KING's MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY.

SIRE,

THE conſtant predilection and countenance YOUR MAJESTY has ever shewn to the most useful and honourable of all occupations, *Husbandry,* emboldens me to address a few thoughts which have arose from actual observation.

If, from the facts therein stated, any hints to the benefit of our native land should arise, my end will be answered: and YOUR MAJESTY, the tender Father of his people, will excuse the liberty I have taken.

Nor have I a doubt the pinch the kingdom now experiences, will bring to public view the abilities and knowledge on this subject of every friend to his country,

which

which never could come forward at a better time than the present, when we have a patriot KING, and a wise, enlightened, and faithful Administration.

Joining in the prayers of all YOUR MAJESTY'S subjects for Your long life, with good health and happiness,

I have the honour to subscribe myself, one of

Your MAJESTY'S

Most dutiful and

devoted Subjects,

WILLIAM BROOKE.

JAN. 8, 1800.

THOUGHTS

ON THE

HIGH PRICE OF PROVISIONS.

" Ill fares the land to fated ills a prey,
" Where wealth accumulates, and men decay.
" Princes or lords may flouriſh or may fade,
" A breath can make them, as a breath has made;
" But, a bold peaſantry, their country's pride,
" When once deſtroy'd, can never be ſupplied."

GOLDSMITH'S DESERTED VILLAGE.

THE above prophetic and immortal lines ought to be written in letters of gold, and prefixed over the door of the Houſe of Commons, conſtantly to remind that very important branch of the Conſtitution, how much it is their duty to attend to the intereſt of the lower orders of ſociety: for, from want of paying due attention to thoſe moſt uſeful claſſes of men, the ſmall farmer and peaſant, great part of the diſtreſſing evils we now experience has originated; and the reaſons for that opinion are as follows:

When the nation, about thirty years ago, began to turn its ſerious attention to agriculture, as a ſcience of the firſt importance, a very wrong bias took place in the mind of the public; whether by the contrivance of artful individuals, or by accident, I ſhall not pretend to determine. The miſtake was, that it would be more for the advantage of the nation, that the ſmall farms and cottages ſhould be thrown into large farms; and upon this illuſive idea, that the large farmer, by the means of his ſuperior capital, would work the land which he occupied, to greater advantage than the ſmall farmer.

Unfortunately, experience, that never-failing touchſtone to truth, hath convinced us how much we were in the wrong. As the preſent period is not the moment to indulge in ſpeculative reaſoning, it will be right to come to the eſſential points at once.

It may, therefore, be aſſerted as the general ſenſe of the nation, that our diſtreſs, for want of greater plenty in the articles of wheat and other grain, butcher's meat, poultry, &c. ariſes from various cauſes, the principal of which are,

Monopoly of farms;

The immenſe number of horſes kept in this kingdom;

The

The neglect in breeding cows, horned cattle, hogs, aſſes, and goats;
The almoſt diſuſe of fiſh, and careleſſneſs of our fiſheries;
The preſent method of ſupporting the clergy;
Too extenſive hop grounds;
Neglect of orcharding, &c.

In the firſt place, I ſhall lay it down as an axiom, that no man has the right to injure his own country in any manner or ſhape whatever; and that it is the natural and moral duty of us all, to increaſe the happineſs and ſtrength of it, by every fair and uſeful means in our power: for, I ſhould conceive it wicked in the extreme for the landholders of England (for to England only ſhall I apply my reflexions) to ſay to their fellow-ſubjects, who now work and occupy the greateſt part of that land, "We have no more occaſion for you, and you muſt quit your farms at the expiration of your leaſes, as we intend to let the woods grow up, and indulge ourſelves in hunting, ſhooting," &c. Would not the reſt of the people revolt at ſuch conduct, and boldly ſay, "No, gentlemen, it is true the land is your own, and that we will guarantee with our blood and our treaſure: but, as from that ſoil, articles of the utmoſt need to the

lives of us all originates, we do inſiſt you have it employed for the ſuſtenance of us and our families?" Would not this, I ſay, be the reaſonable language of the maſs of the nation?

It therefore follows, that the proprietors of land have an undeniable title to their eſtates; but at the ſame time they owe their country, they owe to themſelves, and they owe to their families, the indiſpenſable duty of having thoſe eſtates cultivated in the beſt and moſt profitable manner. It appears, therefore, from the preſent unfortunate ſituation of the kingdom, in reſpect to proviſions, that ſome fatal errors have crept into the management of the ſoil. And we ought all to turn our attention to the cauſes—Why a nation, that not more than forty or fifty years ago ſhipped and ſold, even in Europe, immenſe quantities of wheat; had alſo, at that time, the utmoſt abundance of animal food, when the drain for the Weſt Indies was much more than it has been of late years, and North America did not ſhip the tenth part of proviſions it now does to the iſlands; but, on the contrary, the Southern colonies were ſupplied with large quantities from England. As a caſe in point, in the years 1750 and 1751, more than 1,200,000 quarters of wheat were ſhipped for Spain, Portugal,

Portugal, Italy, and the ſouth of France, and the exportation of that article in large quantities continued until the war broke out in 1755. But at the end of that war, in 1763, the Americans from Virginia, Maryland, and Canada, carried away the trade; and it is ſtrange to relate, the price of wheat has never been very low in England ſince; on the contrary, in the years 1794, 1795, and 1796, and alſo the preſent year 1799, wheat was and now is ſo ſcarce, that in ſpite of great importations, as to be ſold at the exhorbitant price of 15s. and 16s. per buſhel, Wincheſter meaſure; and, from the month of July 1796 to March 1797, 800,000 quarters of wheat were imported, which, with the high bounty given to import, cauſed a drain of 2,500,000 guineas; and it produced ſuch a ſcarcity of caſh, as to be one great cauſe of the Bank ſtopping payment in ſpecie, the beginning of 1797. The reaſon why England ſhould have experienced ſuch a reverſe in the ſtate of its proviſions, deſerves the ſtricteſt enquiry and inveſtigation.

It is almoſt the unanimous opinion of the nation, that the monopoly of farms is the firſt great leading cauſe of the immoderate advance in the price of all the articles of life; for, by throwing the bulk of the land into

into comparatively few hands, opportunity is given to ſpeculation, an evil, eſpecially on objects of the firſt neceſſity, exceeds all calculation. By permitting farmers to hold large tracts, it is impoſſible the land can be ſo well attended to; and for want of abundance of manure on the tillage land, a very great quantity has been taken from under the plough and thrown into paſture, conſequently, has been the means of a vaſt decreaſe in the growth of all kinds of grain. The reduction in the number of farms in England would ſcarce be credited, was not the fact unfortunately too well proved. Not one county in the kingdom has more than half the number it formerly had; moſt counties are reduced to one-third; and one county in particular, has not the fourth part of the number it had a few years ago.

Is it then to be wondered at, that our markets are almoſt deprived of ſmall ſtock; that is to ſay, fowls, geeſe, turkeys, pigs, &c.? which loſs has become an evil ſenſibly felt by every town in the kingdom: indeed the ſcarcity of fowls has been ſuch in London, as to be ſold at the monſtrous prices of 14s. and 16s. a couple. But this miſchief, vexatious as it is, is nothing, in a national point of view,

to the loſs and depreciation of thoſe meritorious claſſes of men, the ſmall farmer and peaſant, occaſioned by this monopoly. Let us bring before our eyes the actual ſtate of the kingdom, in regard to its agricultural population; ſixty or ſeventy thouſand large farmers, and not the ſame number of ſmall ones, occupy all this bountiful and beautiful country. When, therefore, the nation is in war, the ſupply of men from the natural reſource, the country, is totally inadequate to its want; and the cities and manufacturing towns are ranſacked to fill their places. But how ought the account to ſtand, ſo as to render us truly powerful and invincible? This kingdom ſhould be occupied or tenanted by four or five hundred thouſand moderate farmers, and twice as many cottagers: what I mean by a cottager, is a family having the uſe of one to four acres of land. The effect of ſuch an alteration would be, that the Duke of Devonſhire, or other noblemen and gentlemen of large landed property, might wait on his majeſty, when attacked by his enemies, and ſay to him, "Sire, I come to offer you the ſervices of one or two regiments of hardy and intrepid men!" Then would the ariſtocracy, which branch of our excellent conſtitution I hold to be moſt valuable,

able, as being the guardians of the crown on one hand, and the natural and faithful friends to the people on the other, then would it ſtand on its proper baſe and reſpectability. And as all nations muſt be governed by an ariſtocracy, under one name or another, when it loſſes its due influence, as we unfortunately have ſeen happen to France, Flanders, Holland, Italy, and Switzerland, a nation is always afloat; the conſequence of which is uniformly attended with the moſt dreadful effects. I cannot avoid, in this place, paying a ſmall tribute of reſpect to the late unhappy noblemen and gentlemen of France, who, whatever may have been their follies, were beyond contradiction the moſt polite, urbane, and accompliſhed men in the world. Well would it have been for them and for their country, had they attended more to the concerns of their eſtates, and thereby given an opportunity to their ſmall tenants of knowing their worth; for it is a ſtrict truth, the oppreſſions the country people met with there, principally aroſe from the unfeeling conduct of their ſtewards and bailiffs, who fathered their peculations on the backs of their maſters; thouſands of thoſe miſcreants were the firſt to join in the revolution, and are now rioting

on

on the eſtates of much better people. This nation is not without examples.

But the advocates for monopoly and ſpeculation will ſay, What is now to be done? Great part of the lands are under leaſe, and you would not wiſh Parliament to interfere and break private contracts. No, it is not deſired that any individual ſhould have injuſtice done him; but it is contended, that Parliament ſhould ſo far interfere for the benefit of the nation at large, to compel the leaſeholders, who occupy more than a certain quantum of land, to relet the remainder to others on the beſt terms they could. What that quantum ought to be, which each individual ſhould occupy, ſo as to encreaſe the produce, increaſe the population, and thereby the ſtrength of the country, muſt be left to the inveſtigation of that body of men, from whom all the laws of the people originate. But, reaſoning from the conduct and experience of other nations, we may venture to ſay, it ought to be ſmall. The Chineſe, the example to the whole world for induſtry and population, have laws to reſtrain the engroſſing of land; and the univerſal ſmallneſs of their farms, viſible throughout the whole country, is a ſufficient proof. The high re-

ſpect paid to agriculture, as being the firſt link of the political chain, and the true riches of a ſtate, by the government of that very enlightened people, is evident from the conduct of their Emperor; who is the firſt each year to put the plough in the ground. Would to Heaven it was a law with us! which I am certain our preſent gracious Sovereign would heartily ſubſcribe to; we ſhould then behold the greateſt of human bleſſings — an abundant country ſpreading its bounty to all claſſes of the people.

That agriculture is the moſt reſpectable employment in China, we have the authority of all travellers for ſo ſaying; and that they carry on their exertions with conſtant perſeverance. No ſpot is left untilled or unimproved, the very tops of the higheſt mountains they think worth their attention, and Mr. Anderſon tells us in his account of the Chineſe, that he ſaw a man, who in order to obtain the produce from a few yards of land on the ſteep declivity of a hill, actually faſtened a cord round his middle while he broke it up. It is alſo well known the Chineſe, in conſequence of their numbers and induſtry, oblige all other nations to pay tribute to their abilities; ourſelves not excepted. From

one

one ſide of the globe, from whence I have drawn a ſtrong example in favour of ſmall farms to national proſperity, I will paſs to the other, namely, the United States of America, where there is proof of the truth of that opinion of the moſt ſtriking kind, and it ſhall appear by the compariſon of the two moſt powerful ſtates in the ſame union, namely, Maſſachuſetts and Virginia; the ſoil of the former, taking it aggregately, is of middling quality, and requires an immenſe deal of hard labour to bring it to; yet the farms there, being generally of moderate ſize, by prudence and induſtry, the farmers not only maintain themſelves and very large and encreaſing families of children in plenty, but they export yearly great quantities of beef, pork, butter, cheeſe, hog's-fat, cyder, fiſh, &c. &c. beſides many thouſand ſheep and live ſtock to the Weſt Indies; they are alſo the principal manufacturers in the United States, and their troops are ſome of the beſt in the whole Commonwealth; and all this is done, generally ſpeaking, on farms from forty to ſixty acres of cleared land; the ſoil and climate of which will not bear compariſon with our's for agricultural concerns. Whereas in the State of Virginia, where the land is better than in

Maſſachuſetts, the farms are very large, and the proprietors ſeldom working on the land, (which is the conſtant practice of the farmers in the other State,) themſelves, they leave the management to ſervants and blacks, and their produce is by no means equal to what would ariſe if their farms were ſmaller, and managed by the induſtrious hand of the working huſbandman.

I will now endeavour to draw the attention of the reader to a part of Europe well known to many of the firſt perſons in this kingdom, that is to ſay, Switzerland; a people who have by their virtue and courage, till lately overrun by the French Pagan Reformers, enjoyed for centuries uninterrupted peace and happineſs; it is well known their farms are of a very ſmall ſize, and where on the tops of mountains thouſands of families, conſiſting each of eight or ten perſons, are ſupported in plenty, by the produce of five or ſix acres of indifferent land; and yet the young people there are as healthy and hardy as any nation on earth.

From Switzerland we will come nearer home, with additional proof that a ſmall quantity of land, well cultivated, will yield not only plenty for the occupier and his family,

but

but alſo enable him to ſpare abundantly for the market, and that example is all Flanders and Brabant, where the farms are moſtly of inferior ſize; I might ſay very ſmall, when compared with our's. It is well known to all Europe what immenſe crops they raiſe, and what full markets they ſupport; the merit of which ariſes from the huſbandman principally; for the ſtamina of the ſoil is little better than moſt parts of England, notwithſtanding on equal quantity of land they raiſe near twice the produce; this muſt be owing entirely to the farms being ſmall, to the great pains taken to make and collect manure, and the additional labour ſpent on their farms. The late ſagacious Emperor, Joſeph II. a thorough ſtateſman, was ſo ſenſible of the national advantage of ſmall farms, that he paſſed an edict, that no perſon in his hereditary dominions ſhould occupy more than ſixty acres of land; a quantity perhaps ſufficient, if of good quality, for a farmer in this kingdom.

Nor can I omit Holland, the example to all Europe for induſtry and perſeverance. Farms in that country of twenty to forty acres, are reckoned conſiderable; yet when we behold the magnitude of their barns, and the ſize of the

the cattle, we are ſtruck with aſtoniſhment at the ſucceſs of the efforts of the human race when applied with energy; their dykes, their drains, their canals, and the luxurious aſpect of the country, announce to us inhabitants whoſe minds are both ſenſible and ſolid; whoſe anceſtors have had the manly reſolution of reſcuing from a boiſterous ocean a maſs of ſand banks, and converting them to the moſt beautiful paſtures. O! England, thy people do not want good ſenſe, or the ſpirit of uſeful enterprize, turn thy eyes to thy own eaſtern coaſt, and let no labour or expence be ſpared to make it quite equal to thy pattern; let the nation bear any proportion of the expence that may be neceſſary to aſſiſt the proprietors. Such an enterprize would be worth more than all thy tranſatlantic ſettlements put together, which are thine to-day, but in a ſhort time will paſs to another power, *and for ever!*

We will laſtly proceed to Ireland, a country, more to our ſhame be it ſaid, we are leſs acquainted with its natural reſources than thoſe of Jamaica and Bengal; in that fertile iſland, where ignorance ſtalks with oppreſſion in the farming line, the poor peaſant is allowed but a ſmall modicum of land to procure

cure the greateſt part of his ſubſiſtence for himſelf, and ofttimes a large family; ſeldom more than one acre is allotted him, and frequently but half the quantity; yet, fortunately for our navy and army, we ſee ſpring from ſuch ſcanty means a numerous, hardy, and intrepid race of men.

By the ſpecific proofs which I have brought, it appears indiſputably clear, that to render a nation truly reſpectable and invulnerable, every care and attention ought to be paid to agriculture and population; and that it ſhould not be in the power of a few individuals to ſpeculate on its indiſpenſable neceſſities: but to this kingdom of England, the arguments apply with double force; when we conſider our innumerable manufacturers with their families, obliged to go daily to the market; on their returning home impoſed on, oppreſſed, and the plaineſt food ſold at very exhorbitant prices, it makes them diſcontented and unhappy, and may lead to emigrations of the moſt dangerous and important conſequences.

Many more weighty arguments might be adduced to ſupport what I have advanced in favour of ſmall farms; but I ſhall cloſe them by adding the ſentiments of that celebrated philanthropiſt

philanthropiſt and philoſopher, the Abbé Raynal, who is decidedly of opinion, that large farms are highly deſtructive to population, and ſmall ones the only proper means of keeping up that claſs of men. He alſo adds, that every peaſant ſhould have land.

I will boldly aſſert, that the ſecondary cauſe of many of the miſchiefs we have experienced of miſery and almoſt famine, has been from an animal which, although a noble animal, and of value in himſelf, has proved to this country uncommonly pernicious; I mean the *horſe*, not in himſelf, had he been bred in moderation; but from the extravagant numbers now in the land, and the doubly extravagant manner in which they are kept.

In the firſt place, the high price of horſes of late years, has encouraged the monopolizers of many of our ſuperior lands to occupy them in breeding and rearing theſe animals, which, in the early ſtage of life, can be looked after without much trouble.

It appears by the Miniſter's report, there are near one million and an half of horſes in this kingdom; to thoſe who know the great expence of keeping *one* only of theſe beaſts in good order, on graſs, hay, and grain, will ſurely agree with me, that five human beings could

could live in great plenty on the produce of the ſame quantity of land needful to ſupport one horſe. It is therefore evident, the horſes in England devour not only a very large proportion of the grain raiſed in it, but alſo occupy the beſt paſtures in the kingdom; paſtures which ought to be employed for the ſupport of much more uſeful animals.

As every poſſible proof on ſo weighty a ſubject ought to be brought forward to ſupport bare aſſertion,

I ſhall adjoin the actual ſtate of the conſtant tillage-land in England, as taken from an account publiſhed by authority. It conſiſts of ten millions and one half of acres, (Wales excluded,) of which there are only yearly in wheat 2,100,000 acres; there conſequently remain 8,400,000 acres employed in raiſing barley, oats, rye, beans, peas, &c. or fallow, admitting that 3,400,000 are ſown with barley and rye, there yet remain 5,000,000 unaccounted for, and it is but fair to affirm that 2,500,000 acres are ſown with oats, beans, and peas, the remaining two millions and a half being fallow; and for argument ſake we will allow that the produce of 250,000 acres ſown with oats is eaten by the people, and 150,000 acres uſed for fattening ſwine; it ap-

pears clear if this ſtatement is correct, that as much land at leaſt is ſown for the ſupport of horſes as is for the people. A very melancholy reflection when the poor have ſo ſeverely ſuffered.

In times of peace let any perſon look over the bills of entry of London only, and he cannot but notice the many hundred thouſand quarters of oats imported from Holland and Flanders, and be ſenſibly ſtruck with the heavy expence horſes are to this country.

I ſhall be aſked, on the other hand, how is the ploughing, the drawing, and all kind of team-work to be performed without horſes? I anſwer, by oxen, bulls, or mules, the preference is due to the firſt animal, on account of his encreaſing ſize; and alſo for the value and quality of his carcaſe.

That the ox or bull is capable of performing all the buſineſs of heavy draft not only as well as the horſe, but even better, is proved beyond contradiction by the uſe of them in Flanders, Germany, Spain, Turkey, and all the Eaſt where they plough, &c. with no other animals; they are alſo generally employed in the northern States of America, and even in ſome few places in England. In the five New England States, all farming buſineſs, ſuch as ploughing,

harrowing

harrowing, weeding among corn, &c.: alſo, all the waggons, carts, ſledges, dragging timber of the largeſt ſize, clearing land, &c. all is done by oxen; and they not only execute the work I have ſpecified, but go very long journeys of many hundred miles in as ſhort a time as can commonly be done by horſes: as one ſtriking inſtance, a gentleman with whom I was well acquainted, removed his family from the eaſtern part of Maſſachuſetts to Kentucky, a diſtance of upwards of one thouſand miles, which journey he performed in forty-three days, with only two yoke of large oxen, that drew the weight of two tons, the waggon included. I mention this circumſtance, to contradict as much as poſſible the miſtaken prejudice which prevails in this country, that oxen cannot travel; and if they could, it is ſaid, they are tediouſly ſlow, whereas it is a well-known fact, that oxen will, without difficulty, and with heavier loads than an equal number of horſes can draw, travel two miles and one half in the hour; a pace quite as quick as our heavy ſtage waggons uſually go; and beſides, this labour is executed with requiring little more than half the food neceſſary for horſes. But if a creature with a quicker ſtep is wanted, the breed of the buffalo might be intro-

duced; this beaſt will go ſix or ſeven miles per hour, and the meat is very good. The ox and bull have alſo this great advantage over the horſe, that they eat their food much faſter, and are ſooner refreſhed. Still further to convince the nation of the ſuperlative benefit of oxen compared with horſes, I will mention a fact well-known to every one who has been in the middle and northern States of America, and the effects of the different conduct, are an unanſwerable proof of the great profit in raiſing and uſing horned beaſts.

The New England farmers, as I have before ſtated, employ oxen for moſt of their work; but when you get into the States of New York, the Jerſeys, Penſilvania, the farmers in general employ horſes to perform their work, the conſequence of this oppoſite practice is, that was it not for the thouſands and tens of thouſands of beeves which are drove annually from New England to thoſe laſt-mentioned States, the great cities of New York and Philadelphia would ſcarcely be ſupplied with beef in their markets, at all events they would have none for ſhipping, while the markets of Boſton, Salem, Portſmouth, &c. are as well provided with beef and veal as any place in the world, both in its ſize and its quality.

Excluſive of the advantage from the fleſh of the ox, the immenſe quantity of leather made from his hide, has enabled the people of Maſſachuſetts to eſtabliſh ſeveral very extenſive ſhoe-manufactories, in ſo much that the ſingle town of Lynn, near Boſton, makes more than three million pair of women's ſhoes yearly, and the buſineſs is daily encreaſing; ſome of the neighbouring towns have ſupplied the French army with many hundred thouſand pair of men's ſhoes. This manufactory is of very great importance with us, and it now very ſenſibly feels the want of plenty of hides.

When we conſider the incalculable value of working oxen in a manufacturing country, we cannot help being ſurprized that our legiſlature has not turned its thoughts towards this object; for example ſake, I will put down the certain yearly value of 500,000 oxen in the place of 300,000 horſes laid aſide: the food neceſſary for the horſes being quite as much as would be wanted for the oxen. And that I may not overrate the true value of the oxen when brought to market, I ſhall put down the price at 12*l.* per head, which alone would produce, or be a ſaving to the nation, of the immenſe ſum of ſix millions pounds ſterling;

ſterling; and the hides, when manufactured into boots, ſhoes, harneſs, &c. as equal to one million more. It may be ſaid you reckon the horſes of no value; which is truly the caſe, for 500,000 oxen will do twice as much labour of the draft kind as 300,000 horſes can do; and as I before ſtated, that the food needful for the oxen would not be more than what would be neceſſary for the horſes, the horſes, ſpeaking nationally, would be nothing worth.

In addition to what I have advanced in favour of working oxen, it ſhould be remembered that the ox or bull requires not that care, which is indiſpenſable with the horſe, for without it even his food ſcarce does him good; while the other animals after their daily labour need nothing more than to be turned out to their paſtures, or well foddered in their ſtalls. The difference this circumſtance alone makes to the comfort and profit of the farmer is conſiderable, as one man can look after twice the number of oxen he can of horſes. It is now very well known that an ox team will plough with eaſe one acre a day; and from the experiments of His Majeſty, Lord Somerville, and other true patriots, much more may be done.

It

It is a well-known recorded fact, that the Egyptians, in the zenith of their proſperity, worſhipped the ox as being one of the moſt valuable gifts of God.

Finally, it muſt give ſingular pleaſure to every friend of his country, and humanity, to obſerve the miniſter has begun to put his finger upon horſes, and it is to be hoped he will not ſtop his hand until the numbers are much reduced. It is a great pity any exceptions have been made to the general tax. The intent of ſerving the poor by this alteration is a very miſtaken idea; if poor perſons have occaſion to carry burthens, why not employ the aſs? This creature is much ſtronger than the horſe, twice as durable, will live on one-third of the food, and that food the refuſe of other animals, yet with theſe valuable qualities he finds in this country an unjuſt bias againſt him; yet in other nations, full as well informed as ourſelves, he obtains a due ſhare of attention, which his intrinſic worth deſerves. This beaſt that humbly contents himſelf with the coarſeſt food, by brouſing and living on the banks of the roads, who rarely commits treſpaſs, and ſeldom ſtrays far from his home, ſtands always a faithful and ready ſervant to the indigent.

The

The great uſe made of him in Flanders, France, Spain, Italy, and all the eaſtern part of the world, teſtifies, I will again repeat, his undoubted merit.

So high does he ſtand in the opinion of the Perſians, that yearly, on a few particular days of gala, an aſs is exhibited richly capariſoned, and is brought into the royal apartments, and there fed out of a golden trough.

One thing is curious and worthy of remark, that the milk of the aſs, which is of a moſt ſalubrious quality, and that every cottager in the kingdom may enjoy great part of the year, and which is rejected and deſpiſed by him, is ſought after with avidity by the valetudinarian, and the rich, at a very extravagant price. But, that malicious fiend *prejudice*, I am ſorry to ſay, deprives mankind of a great part of the comfort they might enjoy. It muſt not be diſſembled, the aſſes in general in England are of a very ſmall ſize, owing to their half ſtarved ſtate, and want of care of their owners; being ſeldom more than eight or ten hands high, whereas the aſſes in Spain and other countries, are twelve hands high on an average; nor is it uncommon to have them fifteen hands and upwards. With due attention and encouragement, our breed might be highly

highly improved, which the example of the horſe is a ſure guarantee. Our celebrated Sterne has done himſelf immortal honour by doing juſtice to this meritorious animal.

From the truly uſeful, yet neglected aſs, I will endeavour to draw the attention of my countrymen to the increaſe of the queen of all animals, the *Cow*, that has long been, and now is, worſhipped as a deity by many of the eaſtern nations, for her invaluable produce to the benefit of the human race; and yet with us who affect ſuperior ſagacity, great part of our fineſt meadows and paſtures are occupied altogether by the horſe.

I ſhall not heſitate to affirm, that the decreaſe in the breed of cows almoſt all over this kingdom, is as great a cauſe of want of food for the lower order of the people, as any that exiſts.

The evil is felt every way, not only in the ſcarcity and extravagant price of butter, cheeſe, and pork; but the loſs of milk for children, which is now unattainable for the poor, is, in a national light, beyond calculation.

It drives the poor to the neceſſity of uſing, not only for themſelves, but for their infant progeny, that curſe to the country, the ſlow

but poiſonous ſhrub, the tea-leaf; and the viſages of the indigent ſhew the ſource of their malady; milk, the natural food for the young and for the aged, is almoſt denied them; when ſound policy requires it ſhould be had in the greateſt plenty, and at the cheapeſt rate, and I am not afraid to ſay, one half the children of the poor in London, and many of our large towns, actually die for want of proper food.

How different are the appearances in the countenances of even the country children of the preſent day, to what they were forty years ago, and ſurely the health and vigour of the inhabitants of a country, are objects of the firſt magnitude in the eye of an enlightened ſtateſman!

I will mention a few inſtances to ſhew, that every nation that made uſe of milk, have at one period or another ſhewn the higheſt veneration for the *Cow*.

Our Saxon anceſtors, whoſe principal patroneſs was Hartha, would permit no other animals than cows to draw the ark in which ſhe was ſuppoſed to reſide.

In the Eaſt Indies, the Abbé Raynal aſſures us, it is thought by the natives a great cruelty and an ungrateful action to kill a cow, the animal

animal that during its life furniſhed ſo much ſuſtenance to man.

The French on their feaſt of *agriculture*, which is on the firſt Meſſidor, correſponding with our 19th June, in the proceſſion which takes place, exhibit a ſhew of the moſt uſeful animals to man. The firſt of them, and deſervedly ſo, is the *Cow*, fancifully ornamented, children ſtrewing before her flowers, &c. as a token of gratitude; the next creature is the ox, then the ſheep, the aſs, and laſtly, the horſe.

We will now endeavour to place the cow in her true point of view, by calculating her produce arithmetically: the daily yield of this creature, if kept tolerably well, will average ſeven quarts of milk for nine months in the year; that is to ſay, fourteen pounds of the beſt poſſible animal ſubſtance each day for 274 days, making in the whole 3,836lbs. of milk, which mixed with any vegetable ſubſtance, ſuch as flour of all ſorts, bread, potatoes, oatmeal, &c. would ſupport conſtantly four grown perſons in the greateſt health and ſtrength that can be attained by us mortals.

One proof in point we may obſerve in the people of Ireland, where taller and larger

men have appeared than in any part of Europe, numbers conſidered, and their common food, it is well known, is milk mixed with ſome vegetable ſubſtance, and moſt frequently the milk is greatly reduced from its natural quality.

I was at a widow's houſe at Haërlem, in Holland, who kept twelve cows, by which ſhe was enabled to ſend weekly to Amſterdam one hundred and thirty pounds of butter, taking one week with another, eight months in the year: excluſive of this, ſhe made an incredible quantity of ſkimmed milk cheeſe, and principally ſupported with the whey, &c. ten large hogs, which hogs, I am certain, when killed would weigh ſeventeen to eighteen ſcore each; and this was done on thirty-two acres of land; it is true the cows were very large, their paſture in the higheſt ſtate of cultivation, and conſtant pains taken to keep it ſo: there was alſo a complete milk-houſe on the premiſes; a convenience well worth the notice of our dairy farmers. When it is conſidered the vaſt quantity of excellent food which was raiſed on ſo ſmall a ſpot of land; the butter alone amounting to 4160lbs. the cheeſe much more, and nearly as much pork; I would aſk in the name of common ſenſe,

whether

whether from this example, which is by no means overcharged, the very term of want ought to be heard in this land: or at leaſt is it not high time we ſhould try to ſound the cauſes of our difficulty: and from henceforth keep a ſteady eye to the health, plenty, and happineſs of the lower order of the people?

With what grief and ſorrow of heart do I relate another fact which paſſed before my eyes in my own country!

I was going through Oxfordſhire the latter end of 1795; night coming on, I put up at an inn: I had not ſat long in the Bar, before a poor man came to the houſe; it being Saturday night, the miſtreſs aſked him how much he had received in charity? he replied ten ſhillings, adding, that would not buy him ſufficient wheat for the ſupport of himſelf, a wife, and ſeveral children for the week to come; he then put his hand in his pocket, and pulling out a ſhilling, gave it to the landlady, ſaying, "I owe you eight-pence, and "if you will let me have another mug of "beer there is your money," One ſhilling conſequently was gone out of the ten. The next morning I obſerved the ſame man returning with a woman, who, I found, was his wife, under pretext of buying a peck of wheat, the

the landlord being the only perſon in the neighbourhood who had any to diſpoſe of; while this was meaſuring, the man went to the Bar, and deſired that his wife might have a glaſs of gin, and he would take a mug of ale, which together coſt ſix-pence, there was then eighteen-pence gone; but this was not all, after the wheat was meaſured, the woman ſays to her huſband, " John, I want ſome money to go to the grocer's for ſome tea, ſugar, butter, and Heaven knows what;" ſo that I found clearly all the ſuſtenance the whole family was likely to receive from the ten ſhillings, was one peck of wheat, for I count the tea and the other traſh to a poor family as worſe than nothing.

How different would have been the ſituation of this poor man and his family, in plenty and comfort, had the hand of wiſdom or humanity furniſhed him with the produce of a cow! Then would there have been no occaſion for his haunting the public houſe to obtain a little momentary relief from his diſtreſs, for from my heart I could not blame his conduct: then would his children's bellies have been filled with wholeſome and nutritious diet, which creating a maſs of good blood in their veins, would one day enable them

them to ſtand forth the bold defenders of their native land.

And I ſhall here obſerve once for all, that I write not for the rich, as they never feel the diſtreſſes of the belly, but in behalf of thoſe claſſes, which, when made content and happy, are the foundation of our ſtrength, our wealth, and all the luxuries enjoyed by the opulent.

If then, as I have before proved, one cow with a little aſſiſtance is capable of maintaining in food four grown perſons, how much ought ſuch an animal to be prized above all others; and what attention ſhould be paid by the legiſlature of a country to obtain the utmoſt increaſe of this invaluable creature. But, with us Britons, the object of providing abundance of wholeſome food for the people, thereby to obtain an increaſed population, is ſo material to counteract the politic plan of our exaſperated and implacable rival, who is determined to overpower us by numbers, that it is to be hoped every effective moderate means will be employed to eſtabliſh this point.

Who, that has his country's welfare at heart, but muſt reprobate in the ſtrongeſt terms that unnatural and impolitic act, called the

the Marriage Act, which has not its parallel in the world? A law, although far from anſwering the illiberal policy of the framers of it, has cauſed more vice and diſeaſe in the land, than the plague itſelf would.

I appeal to the dictates of common reaſon, whether it is not natural that young perſons, who live in eaſe and great plenty, ſhould ſooner feel the impuſe of love than thoſe whoſe conſtant employments draw their attention to other objects; beſides, the amorous novels and wanton prints with which our young ladies are amply provided by their accommodating chambermaids, add not a little to inflame the youthful blood.

That perſons ſhould marry young, for the benefit of the ſtate, and for the order of the community, is an eternal truth. The univerſal good effects of ſuch conduct is no where better exemplified than in London, where I will venture to pronounce that three out of four of all thoſe who have made fortunes by trade, &c. were married men and married early. Beſides, the Engliſh character being naturally of a domeſtic turn of mind, when a couple are married agreeable to their inclinations, I heſitate not to ſay, no men in the univerſe prove themſelves better huſbands, or any

women

women more affectionate and faithful wives. But what inſtance can I bring more ſtriking of the beneficial conſequence of ſuch practice than our gracious Monarch and his family. He marrying young a virtuous and amiable princeſs, and living with great regularity, has begot a numerous offspring, which having been brought up in an exemplary manner—the ſons are among the moſt hardy and intrepid in the nation, and the daughters the moſt beautiful and accompliſhed. It is to be wiſhed that ſome patriotic and enlightened ſtateſman would take this matter up ſo as to remove all obſtructions to legal connexions between the ſexes.

Sheep being the favourite animal of the nation, to caſt the leaſt reflection on the management of him will be eſteemed great preſumption, but as the evil I mean to complain of will be obvious to every gentleman who will take the trouble to turn it in his mind; it is evident the too common practice of putting ſheep into paſture-land where cows are kept, or intended to be kept, is totally wrong; it is a well known fact that no animal bites cloſer the fine and ſweet herbage than the ſheep, even to the root. The conſequence is, that the cow in ſuch paſtures eats but little more than is neceſſary to ſupport nature, and

falls off prodigiouſly, not only in quantity, but what is worſe in the quality of the milk. This laſt obſervation every good dairy-maid muſt notice, in the quality of her cheeſe eſpecially.

The next creature to the cow, in value to the lower order of the people, is the *Hog*, the breed of which has been moſt ſhamefully neglected of late in the country. When we conſider there is no kind of food, whether animal or vegetable, the hog will not only feed but thrive on, it is matter of ſome amazement ſo few are now kept; yet when it is recollected the decreaſe in the ſtock of cows, and alſo that the peaſant is not allowed a ſingle foot of land to improve, our wonder ceaſes. Hard as the lot of the poor Iriſh is, it has this advantage, he is permitted to hire a ſmall ſpot to his hut, on part of the produce of which he commonly keeps a hog, and it is a great means of the quantity of pork brought into the markets of Ireland. But in England, through the ſuperciliouſneſs of the perſons who call themſelves gentlemen farmers, the very ſight of a cottage is not to be permitted near their dwellings, much leſs that the poor labourer ſhould be allowed to keep a pig, or ſcarce a cock and hen.

It is high time the country gentlemen, and even

even the legiſlature, ſhould ſee into theſe matters and procure relief for the peaſant, who is ſo needful even to thoſe by whom he is deſpiſed. There is not perhaps any animal that encreaſes in weight ſo faſt as the hog, if he is well fed; many inſtances have been known of hogs growing to the enormous weight of thirty ſcore, or ſix hundred pounds and upwards in nineteen months, and ſhotes to fifteen ſcore or three hundred pounds in ſeven months. To this quantity of meat a remark ſhould be added, that ſix hundred pounds of large pork is equal to a thouſand pounds of beef, or twelve hundred pounds of mutton and veal in a farmer's family, or in any family where vegetables are plenty: the ſort of hogs that has been introduced of late years, called the Chineſe, is fit only for freſh pork, and valuable for its nicety alone: but to poor people, who want quantity without ſo much delicacy, the large ſpecies is the proper kind, as undoubtedly ſalt pickled pork is the cheapeſt animal food for the country poor. And I confeſs it is a great pity to obſerve, that great part of our hogs are, after being killed, made into bacon, a very waſteful practice, and any perſon who has attended at the broiling of theſe creatures, or as it is termed, ſingeing them before they are opened, cannot be in-

ſenſible of the great loſs this method occaſions in weight, and nearly ruining the inteſtines, beſides the large quantity unfit for uſe by becoming rancid. All large hogs ought to be ſcalded, whereby the rind would be ſaved, which alone on the quantity conſumed in England would amount to millions of pounds weight.

Of ſuch importance is it to this nation to keep a large and never-failing ſtock of hogs, that in the debate on the Foreſtalling Bill in the Houſe of Commons, on the 13th of June 1797, Sir William Pulteney obſerved in oppoſition to it, that one principal cauſe of the dearneſs of butcher's meat, was the decreaſe of fat hogs, and pork meat, owing to the ſtoppage of the diſtilleries which had taken place the year before. Good God! that ſuch an argument ſhould be reſorted to in a country where the vegetation is almoſt perpetual, and where food for ſwine may be encreaſed *ad infinitum*; it is a diſgrace to legiſlative attention. Nor can it be thought out of order in this place, to recommend to our Agricultural Societies to petition Parliament to frame a law to compel all farmers to cultivate potatoes in proportion to the extent of their farms. With all the atrocious acts of Robeſpierre, the Republic of France owed its ſalvation to the

the deciſive meaſures he made uſe of to ſupply the people with this excellent ſuccedaneum for grain; he inſiſted that the gardens of the court-yards in Paris ſhould be planted with potatoes, nor did he ſpare even the celebrated garden of the Thuilleries, part of which he planted with his own hands: and it is true to relate, that the inhabitants of that country who fifteen years ago deſpiſed the potatoe, as the moſt taſteleſs and inſipid of all roots, are now become ſo attached to it, that they eat it at all times and with all things.

After the hog, as a domeſtic animal for the cottager, I ſhall place the *Goat*, formerly very numerous both in England and Wales, but the breed of which is now almoſt annihilated, although our climate and ſoil are perfectly congenial to raiſe them of the largeſt ſize. This creature would be very valuable to the poor on various accounts. The ſhe-goat gives from two to three quarts and upwards of excellent milk each twenty-four hours, and will not only exiſt but thrive on ſeveral ſorts of food which few other creatures will touch, ſuch for example as all the refuſe of the garden; and it is ſo eaſily domeſticated, that it will live on ſwill the ſame as the hog: with plenty of food and care, it will grow exceeding fat, twenty-ſix pounds of the beſt and hardeſt

hardeſt tallow having been frequently taken from the kidneys of one of them. The meat of the kid is quite as good as lamb, and we well know both the hair and ſkins of goat and kid are very valuable. It muſt be acknowledged they are dangerous near young fruit trees, the bark of which they are remarkably fond of: but this difficulty is eaſily obviated by the ſimple means of tethering them, as is practiſed in many parts of the world; when this precaution is taken, few creatures deſerve more conſideration, their milk making the beſt of cheeſe, and the cream good butter. Thoſe cheeſes, the Parmeſan and Gruyere, which commonly ſell in London at two ſhillings and ſixpence per pound, are made from milk, one part goat and the other cow, of this I have been an eye witneſs; but could the farmer find ſufficient goats' milk to ſupply the perpetual demand from all parts of Europe, not one pailful of cow's milk would be uſed. There is no doubt it would well pay many of the Welch mountain farmers to keep conſiderable flocks and have them, as formerly, attended by goatherds, for great part of their food would be different from that eat by the ſheep.

I am now come to an article of the utmoſt conſequence to this country, either as the

the means of ſupplying food for millions of people, or employment for an innumerable claſs of valuable men, namely, Fiſh, and the Fiſheries. Various cauſes, many of them obvious, have operated to reduce the conſumption of fiſh in England to an inſignificant point in the ſcale of national ſupply of animal food for the lower claſs of the people, and to confirm this aſſertion, underneath is the actual ſtate of the annual conſumption of the different ſubſtances, as publiſhed by authority: viz.

lbs.	
108,000,000	of Veal.
600,000,000	of Beef.
81,000,000	of Lamb.
360,000,000	of Mutton.
122,000,000	of Pork and Pig.
80,000,000	of Bacon.
10,000,000	of Fowl, Fiſh, Veniſon, and Game.
39,000,000	of Dairy Supplies thrown into Meat.
26,000,000	of imported Amimals, namely, thirty thouſand live Beaſts, and ten thouſand Hogs.
1,426,000,000	

That

That is to ſay, fourteen hundred and twenty-ſix millions pounds of animal food, butter and cheeſe included. I can ſafely pronounce there is not ſuch an extravagant ſcale in the qualities of food for ſupplying the maſs of a great nation on the face of the whole earth.

We here ſee more veal than pork, the pig-meat deducted, and more lamb than bacon.

But what ſhall we ſay to the ſmall portion of fowl and fiſh? two articles that ought to be had in the greateſt plenty, and on the loweſt terms, not only for the ſuſtenance but for the comfort of man, when we find they ſtand in the ſcale as one to one hundred and forty-two.

The extreme ſcarcity of all ſorts of poultry is eaſily accounted for, and has aroſe, ſpeaking comparatively, within a few years, from the magnitude of the farms; the wealth of the farmers, who are now above raiſing ſmall ſtock for the market; and their wives and daughters, whoſe province this was, have now aſſumed a claſs in ſociety which ought *not* to be, and has deprived the country of at leaſt nine-tenths of their numbers. But for the ſmall quantity and conſumption of fiſh, there is no excuſe: for round all our iſlands we are provided by the bountiful hand of Nature with an

an aſſortment of the beſt quality and greateſt variety, and we have moreover a privilege belonging to no other northern nation, of being generally able to take them all the year round.

Let us pauſe for a moment: and reflect on the careleſs conduct of the nation on this important ſubject. A country, confeſſedly as we are, a maritime one, whoſe power, ſecurity, and wealth, depend on its immenſe navy, and in the valour and number of its ſeamen: that ſuch a nation, with the moſt ample means in its hands, ſhould not by ſome politic cuſtom or *law*, encourage a great conſumption of fiſh, appears altogether unaccountable; for admitting that the poultry, veniſon, and game, in the ſtatement I have before given, ſtand only as three millions in the ten there mentioned, it is evident that ſeven millions of pounds of fiſh is the utmoſt weight expended in England; that is nearly as one to 204 of the animal ſubſtance conſumed therein. It would be needleſs to ſay more on the impropriety of our conduct; figures ſpeak for themſelves, and the application muſt be obvious to all. Yet it is not enough to diſcover or lay open the defects of our policy; but it is likewiſe the duty of us all on this *general concern* to

throw in our mites of information, whether derived by experience, or acquired by obſervation, on the conduct of thoſe nations that make fiſh the principal part of their food, moſt of whom do it by choice.

I ſhall not therefore heſitate to ſay, that the two moſt uſeful and profitable fiſh in the ocean, are the *Herring* and the *Cod*; the firſt of theſe is inconteſtably the moſt valuable to the lower claſs of mankind, becauſe it has no need of ſauce as an aſſiſtant.

The *Herring* dreſt in any manner is excellent; for keeping when ſalted, ſmoked, or dried in the open air, or kept in ſalt pickle after the practice of the Dutch, is a very nutritious, wholeſome, and reliſhing aſſiſtant, either with potatoes, ſalad, or any boiled vegetable. The immenſe conſumption by the people of Ireland, the north of Europe, Germany, Holland, Flanders, France, and all the ſouth of Europe, alſo the northern parts of America, prove to the cleareſt demonſtration how much this fiſh is prized. In Germany many thouſand waggons come ſeveral hundred miles from the interior to purchaſe each a load; and to form ſome ſmall conception of the quantity taken, it is a melancholy fact, that the Dutch, for more than a century and a half,

a half, have never failed to employ in time of peace ſeven hundred buſſes yearly, on that fiſhery alone, each buſs carrying from ten to ſixteen men, and from forty to ſeventy tons burthen; but more ſtrange is it to relate, that they not only fiſh on our own coaſts, but even in our bays.

What a reſource as a nurſery of hardy ſeamen! and how much ought it to be attended to by us?

I am well aware that on this ſubject I am treading on beaten ground; and I am proud to join my humble opinion to that of very many of the moſt able men in this kingdom. It may be aſked, What are we to do with ſuch immenſe quantities? The reply is eaſy, a great many might be conſumed at home, was the uſe of them brought into general eſteem, and at a moderate price; many might and would be ſent to Germany, and all the ſouth of Europe; a great many to the Weſt Indies: to prove in part the amount of their conſumption in that part of the globe, more than 100,000 barrels are ſhipped yearly from the coaſt of America, and the quality of moſt of thoſe ſent from thence, is no ways equal to our's; the ſpecies that comes on our coaſt,

ſeldom going farther weſt than Cape Sable on the coaſt of America.

By the Cuſtom Houſe Books of Hamburgh, where the Dutch emigrants have carried part of the herring fiſhery, one hundred and ninety ſix thouſand large caſks of herrings were ſhipped for foreign markets in the year 1797.

When we conſider the extravagant manner of cooking cod-fiſh in this country, it is not ſurprizing ſo little barreled or dry cod ſhould be eat, for as it is dreſſed with eggs, butter, &c. it becomes an expenſive diſh. When on the contrary, if the modes of other nations were followed, there is no animal food cheaper; the eaſieſt method and that which would beſt pleaſe the palates of our people, is ſimply, after a proper time ſoaked in cold water, to boil the fiſh and potatoes, when after picking the meat from the bones, mix it with potatoes, adding milk, &c. and warm it; or, fry the fiſh and potatoes maſhed with fat pork, ſweet hog's fat, milk, or butter, and it produces a very agreeable and nutritious aliment; for a few pounds of fiſh will give an excellent reliſh to many pounds of potatoes. We know the practice in the ſouth of Europe is only to boil the fiſh, and eat it with oil, vinegar, ſalad, onions,

onions, &c. It would be well if gentlemen did inſiſt on having ſalted cod, or herring dreſt once a week in their families, in the plaineſt and cheapeſt manner; ſuch practice would, by degrees, prevail on their neighbours to fall into it; for until example is ſet, the common people of England will do nothing. By encreaſing the uſe and conſumption of theſe ſorts of fiſh; two very patriotic purpoſes will be anſwered: *one* of obtaining an indefinite ſupply of wholeſome food for the people; the *other*, a means of employing and encreaſing the number of our ſeamen and ſhipping, which employ will be wanted when peace takes place.

I ſhall be brief in deſcribing the magnitude and importance of the cod fiſhery, the ſubject having been ſo frequently and ably handled; but to give a ſmall idea of its immenſity to perſons unacquainted with it; I ſhall obſerve that the Americans employ *one thouſand* ſail of veſſels in the fiſhery; and in time of peace the French have had at one time on the Great Bank of Newfoundland, *five hundred* ſquare-ſail veſſels, many of them of great burthen; while, I am ſorry to ſay, the Engliſh have not half that number. This difference is greatly

greatly owing to the want of conſumption at home for the produce of the fiſhery.

I will now proceed from thoſe invaluable fiſh the herring and cod, to various other ſorts, which are always round our coaſt, or in our rivers.

The firſt in quality is the *Salmon*; and it is pity, in ſpite of the ſeveral acts of Parliament, very great fault is to be found in the care of that fiſhery; for it is certain, with only uſing proper precautions, twenty, I might add fifty times the quantity could be bred, and for ever.

It is a well known fact, that all fiſh of tranſit, ſuch as the ſalmon, return yearly to the ſame river they were ſpawned in, and it is generally allowed the encreaſe of ſize of this fiſh, when it returns from the ſea, is thirteen inches and upwards; indeed many actual experiments have proved the fact. If therefore at one or two periods of the year the river fiſheries were forbid altogether, or at moſt allowed to be fiſhed two days in the week, we ſhould have all our *ſalmon rivers* in leſs than five years full of that delicious animal. And the river *Severn* alone, which breeds the very beſt quality, and is now

almoſt

almoſt empty, would produce not only ſufficient for the towns on its banks, but amply ſupply the London market. It would be well alſo to enlarge the meſh of the nets by an act of Parliament if only one quarter of an inch, or even the eighth of an inch, but enforce the law with the utmoſt rigour. From the ſize of ſome ſalmon brought to London and openly ſold, it is evident the acts are groſsly evaded, and therefore every fiſhmonger who bought ſalmon under a certain weight ſhould be liable to a heavy fine, and the fiſherman a ſevere puniſhment; for the cupidity and obſtinacy of the fiſherman not only materially injures the country, but his own permanent intereſt: for he might with a little patience, get ten times the weight he now does. When the preſent price of two ſhillings per pound is now paid in London for ſalmon, and not likely to be plentiful and cheap again, without parliamentary interference, no doubt it will ſhortly be attended to with zeal and complete effect.

But is it not a ſhame to the internal regulation of the metropolis of the empire, that *Paris*, diſtant one hundred and forty miles from the ſea, and no tide navigation, ſhould be, not only more plentifully ſupplied with

ſea-

ſea-fiſh than London, but commonly at half the price. As to freſh-water fiſh, there is no compariſon in the ſupply of the two cities, *Paris* having conſtantly abundance, and *London* next to none. There is alſo a glaring abſurdity and miſmanagement to be noticed at Billingſgate, where we obſerve conſtantly in time of peace a number of Dutch boats, loaded with turbot, plaice, flounders, eels, &c. but what encreaſes the ſurpriſe is, the Dutch fiſhermen buy the lamprey fiſh, the beſt bait for the turbot, in our own rivers. Surely this matter merits the attention of the Lord Mayor and Aldermen, that ſome effective plan may be adopted to ſupply London ourſelves, without being obliged to pay a tribute in caſh of 60,000l. and upwards yearly, to our more induſtrious neighbours and rivals, and for what may be ſaid to belong to us.

Without meaning to be too critical, I cannot let paſs the conduct of a reſpectable Chief Magiſtrate, a very few years back, who, becauſe the ſmelts were unuſually plentiful that ſpring, permitted the fiſhermen to leſſen the meſh of their nets, not reflecting on the conſequence for the next year, and the effect was, they brought ſmelts to market not broader than ſtraws; and ſince then another Chief Magiſtrate

giſtrate allowed the fiſhermen above London-Bridge to put in their nets fourteen days before the time allowed by law, not conſidering the intent of that law was to give the largeſt and ſtrongeſt ſmelts an opportunity to ſpawn before the maſs of the fiſh ſhould come up the river. It is wonderful that the Magiſtrates of Weſtminſter have not erected a fiſh-market of their own near Hungerford; and one ought to be on the Surrey ſide of the Thames, by which means Billingſgate would be a little freed of its confuſion, and the town eaſier and better ſupplied: for when we reflect that in a diameter of twenty miles, taking St. Paul's for its centre, there are two millions of inhabitants, and they to be furniſhed with fiſh from *one* ill-contrived market, and that monopolized; we muſt acknowledge there is *at leaſt* great inattention ſomewhere.

An infinite number of remarks might be made to promote the increaſe of many other ſorts of fiſh, all of which are nationally important. I ſhall confine myſelf, however, to a few only, and begin with the uſe that may be made with the water in the canals that now are, or will be, in the kingdom. And I cannot avoid bringing forward again the conduct of the Chineſe, who have interſected their coun-

try with canals, the extent conſidered, more than any nation in the world; and yet they have converted thoſe waters into magazines of proviſions: and they calculate that one acre covered with water, will breed and ſupport more food for the human race than twenty times the ſpace of dry land. Let us follow their example

In order ſo to do, it will be neceſſary to appoint managers of the canals; and thoſe perſons to be as well acquainted as poſſible with the peculiar ſoil and water for breeding fiſh, and alſo thoſe waters proper for feeding; theſe are matters of great conſequence to the improvement and growth of the animal: for we are well informed the Chineſe carry the young fry of the carp and tench a thouſand miles to different water in which they grow quickly to a large ſize; and before the Revolution in France, all the canals in Flanders, and the rivers in France, were full of excellent fiſh, purely by ſound policy. It is to be feared the ſpecies of fiſh with which our preſent canals are ſtored, are not thoſe likely to promote the increaſe. I have ſeen in ſeveral of them great numbers of pike and perch; that theſe fiſh are good in quality, I ſhall not deny; but unfortunately they are too voracious; the

pike,

pike, it is computed, devours many hundred times its own weight before he is of a proper ſize to be killed, and the quantity of ſpawn each of them deſtroys is, doubtleſs, very great. The carp, the tench, and eels are alſo excellent fiſh; and although the two former are among the rarities of our diſhes of food, yet might they be bred in the greateſt abundance; as theſe ſorts of fiſh are mud fiſh, they receive more nouriſhment from the ſoil than any other we are acquainted with, of what kind that is I will not attempt to explain. The carp and tench, if I may be allowed the expreſſion, are domeſtic fiſh, and can be rendered exceeding tame and familiar. An ingenious gentleman in Germany has ponds for carp and tench that are fed as regularly as hogs, and they come at the accuſtomed hours as punctual: his fiſh grow large very rapidly, and their meat is of ſuperior flavour. There is alſo another method to make them grow very large. We muſt not forget the roach and dace, although fiſh of inferior quality, are nevertheleſs exceeding prolific, and a nouriſhing food. While I am on the ſubject of Fiſh, I cannot omit noticing the very extravagant price and extreme ſcarcity of ſhell-fiſh in this kingdom: oyſters, lobſters, crabs, &c. ſome of the

greateſt luxuries of food, are become almoſt unattainable to the lower order of ſociety; when all of them might be bred in profuſion on our coaſts and in our rivers: tens of thouſands of tons of oyſters may with little care and attention, and ſmall expence, add to the maſs of our food, and the health and comfort of the people at large: but that curſed ſpirit of monopoly with which the nation is ſo much tinctured, deprives us in every ſhape of the numerous natural advantages we poſſeſs. The encreaſe of oyſter-beds, ſo eaſily made, and ſo eaſily augmented, almoſt without number, merits the attention of the legiſlature to regulate and encourage.

Nothing more is neceſſary, with regard to the crab and lobſter, than to prohibit the fiſhermen from ſelling them under a certain ſize, and as far as the law could operate, compel him to return to the ſea thoſe under the ſtandard meaſure. This eaſy and ſimple means alone, excluſive of procuring an abundant ſupply of lobſters in our markets, would ſave to the nation a conſiderable ſum paid yearly to the Norwegians for this animal.

The wanton extravagance and wickedneſs of our fiſhermen, reſpecting that delicate fiſh the ſhrimp, deſerves ſevere reprehenſion and correction:

correction: the fiſherman is not content with taking them of the moſt minute ſize, but he brings them in that ſtate to market, where they are ſifted, and one-fourth thrown away. Why not ſift them when caught, and let the fry fall into the ſea? I know not whether there is a law to fix the ſize of the meſh for taking the ſhrimp; but if there is not, there ought to be; for this animal is ſo extremely prolific, that the aggregate quantum that could be bred in the year would be immenſe, as is viſible on the Dutch, French, and Flemiſh coaſt, where the ſize alſo, by only regulating the width of the meſh, is as large as moſt of our prawns. It ſhould not be forgotten to obſerve, that the magiſtrates on thoſe coaſts compel likewiſe their fiſhermen to go out to ſea, the weather permitting; and if by misfortune they loſe their nets, which oft-times happens, the magiſtrates are authorized to ſupply them; nor will they ſuffer every idle and paltry pretext to deprive the public of the benefit of ſea-fiſh. Too much the caſe in this country, and the effects of the different conduct in the nations is very ſenſibly felt by us.

With what pleaſure does every ſtranger go into the fiſh-markets in Holland, to obſerve the abundance, the neatneſs, and regularity with

with which they are conducted: officers are appointed to ſuperintend the markets, and keep in check thoſe boiſterous females. From the examples of the Chineſe and Dutch, thoſe patterns to mankind on many accounts, no canals, rivers, ponds of water, or where pieces of water can be made at little expence, ought to be without its full compliment of inhabitants, thereby to encreaſe the object I have in view—the bleſſings of plenty to us all!

On the preſent mode of maintaining great part of the Clergy, as it is a ſubject of delicacy, I ſhall ſay little elſe than that it ſerves as a pretext to the illiberal-minded farmer for not raiſing more grain, which it is his civic duty to do; as alſo for not breeding ſmall ſtock, and often for not improving waſte land, in theſe points it is extremely hurtful. I cannot help beſides remarking, that it is the intereſt and wiſdom of all governments to render the eſtabliſhed religion of a country as palateable to the people as poſſible. Therefore the preſent mode of gathering tythes gives an advantage to the ſectaries, of which they very much avail themſelves: but thoſe reflections fall particularly hard and unjuſt on our Clergy, when it is recollected, if I am rightly informed, that more than half the tythes are in the hands

hands of laymen. Certainly, if that is the caſe, other modes might be taken to ſupport religion, and free its teachers from this ſtigma.

I ſhall now proceed on cauſes that have, by length of time, operated to encreaſe the uſe of bread, and decreaſe the cultivation of wheat, in ſome of the moſt fertile counties in England, namely Kent, Surry, Worceſter, Hereford, &c. and the obvious reaſon why hop-grounds on the preſent extenſive ſcale are ſo highly hurtful to raiſing wheat, and other grain in thoſe counties, ariſes from the immenſe quality of the beſt dung neceſſary for the preparation of the grounds, and indiſpenſable to the ſupport and cultivation of that vine; but the worſt conſequence of all is, that the remaining part of the farms are generally ſtarved to render a few acres highly luxuriant. What remedy can be applied to check this ſpeculative article it is difficult to deviſe, except putting on a ſmart additional duty, and encouraging the uſe of other bitters; thoſe of our native ſoil, the camomile, wormwood, and rue—none can be better; the famous beer of Bruſſels, Louvain, &c. is principally bittered by the flower of the firſt of theſe articles, notwithſtanding there is plenty of hops and of the firſt quality.

The

The uſe of fruit in large quantities, and as food, is now ſo little known in this kingdom, that I am obliged to bring forward ſome very ſtriking examples to ſhew, nature herſelf has pointed out to us that at the ſeaſon fruit is quite ripe, it ought to be uſed in a very liberal manner, eſpecially by the young and the aged.

Was I to recapitulate the various countries that raiſe and uſe it as food great part of the year, I ſhould comprehend two-thirds of the habitable globe.

That ripe fruit is one of the greateſt nouriſhers and ſweeteners of the blood, is acknowledged by all the faculty, and to prove their opinion well founded, the immediate change that takes place in the habits and countenances of ſea-faring men, who land in countries where fruit is plenty, after a long voyage, is ſo amazing, that their recoveries appear like a miracle.

In the Weſt Indies it often happens, that whole gangs of negroes are in a ſickly and dying ſtate until the ſugar-cane is ripe, when by a free uſe of the juice of that plant, they on a ſudden become hearty, plump, and ſtrong; it is likewiſe well known that nothing repels putridity in the blood equal to ripe fruit.

So

So far for its ſalubrity. As examples how much the apple and pear, fruits very natural to the ſoil and climate of many parts of this kingdom, may contribute to furniſh food, I ſhall relate the practice of the farmers in New England, where the orchards are very large; it is their conſtant method to plant apple trees, the fruit of which will ripen at different times; as ſoon therefore as the early kind is ripe, the children are allowed to eat as much as they like, large quantities are alſo gathered and thrown into the oven to bake, and from that time until the apple begins to grow ſcarce, a period of upwards of four months, not one third of the bread is uſed in the family, and that is chiefly eat by the men; for the women and children infinitely prefer the delicious and nouriſhing food of baked apples, with milk, &c. to any thing elſe. I know alſo that during the extreme ſcarcity of grain in France, as ſoon as apples and pears were ripe in Normandy, and the adjacent provinces, thouſands of families did not taſte bread for three months together; and yet they never were in better health and ſtrength.

The introduction of the uſe of beer in the place of cyder, for the common beverage of

 the

the people, was undoubtedly the firſt great cauſe of the neglect of orcharding: for ſpeaking generally, thoſe who are fond of beer diſlike cyder, and *vicé verſâ*. It is unneceſſary to contend which liquor is the moſt healthy, the habit of drinking beer and ale is now ſo univerſal, that it would be difficult to change the practice, yet that is no excuſe why an infinite number of apple and pear trees ſhould not be planted, as healthy and nouriſhing aſſiſtants to the food of youth, eſpecially as they can be raiſed without occupying much land, by having them planted in the hedge rows. I would aſk why they are not planted in gentlemen's pleaſure grounds, in the place of thoſe raſcally firs, poplars, &c.? The apple tree is certainly handſomer than any of them, and when in bloſſom no object in nature is more beautiful. But in England we are without diſpute the moſt extravagant in the employment of our land, of any nation on earth that has ſo ſmall a quantity. Foreigners who travel among us, form a poor opinion of the quality of our ſoil from ſeeing ſuch numerous clumps of firs ſtuck all over it; they conſider it of the nature of California, Newfoundland, or the barren rocks of Nova Scotia, never ſuſpecting ſuch traſh would be planted on

ſome

ſome of the beſt land in the nation. It is mortifying to add, that what was at firſt an harmleſs ornament on ſome unproductive ſpots, is now becoming a ſerious evil. Apples and pears, in thoſe counties where they thrive, will become a traffic of importance by the means of the canals to the north, and no time ought to be loſt in encreaſing the plantations. By what has been ſaid it is not meant that any meaſures ſhould be taken to abridge gentlemen from rendering their habitations in the country as pleaſant and ornamental as they can, but let them at the ſame time have the feeling of the patriot and philanthropiſt, of which characters they ſhould always be the examples; let them alſo conſider, that the happineſs and comfort of the peaſant adds not only to the internal ſtrength of a nation, but alſo, if times of attempt at revolution ſhould take place, by behaving condeſcending and benevolent to him, the moſt powerful and ungovernable inſtrument is taken out of the hands of the ambitious demagogue.

Excluſive of the various general cauſes of the ſcarcity of proviſions, which have been mentioned, there are ſeveral others that have operated in a leſſer degree to the diſtreſſing chain which now pervades the nation.

Theſe ſecondary cauſes are:

Extenſive parks and pleaſure-grounds;

The common mode of ſowing grain;

The extravagant manner uſed by the poor in dreſſing their meat;

The ridiculous waſte of ſtraw; with many others which the eye of a critic can eaſily diſcover.

In the room of deer and horſes in parks, let them be replaced by cows, oxen, and mules; the change will be highly profitable, and on paſture land, no creatures look ſo handſome and natural as the cow and the ox, or that preſent more rural objects.

The actual method of ſowing moſt grains by broad caſt, is certainly a matter of ſerious and important conſideration; for it appears, from a late official report, 787,000 quarters of the beſt wheat is required for ſeed, ſay 6,300,000 buſhels, or three buſhels to an acre; was the mode of ſetting wheat by hand, as is begun to be practiſed in ſome counties, to prevail all over the kingdom, more than two-thirds of the ſeed might be ſaved; this would be a prodigious matter, when conſidered the ſeed alone takes one-ſeventh of all the yearly produce; therefore two-thirds of ſeed ſaved would be 525,000 quarters, which, at the moderate

derate price of 50s. per quarter, will produce £. 1,312,500 ſterling, a ſum that will repay the extra expence in a ten-fold ratio; but this is not, conſiderable as it is, the only advantage; this practice, when carefully executed, renders a crop almoſt certain: ſetting wheat by hand, prevents the grain being huddled together, and by putting only two grains in a hole, it gives opportunity for the roots and fibres to ſtrike ſtrong and vigorous, an object of the firſt importance in vegetation; beſides, the grain being well covered, the blade does not appear until the root has taken good hold of the earth, by which the plant becoming hardier, is not ſubject to ſo many complaints that now affect it, and it will be ſecure from the depredations of the birds. Was the grain ſet ſo far apart, ſo as to admit the hand-hoe to go between the rows, it would well repay that trouble and expence, and the apparent loſs of land, by the ſtrength the plant would acquire from the air, freſh earth to its roots, and cleaning the ground from weeds and inſects, eſpecially in open winters, excluſive of ſaving the expence of hand-weeding in the ſpring, the method now practiſed, and when very often the grain is too high for ſuch operations. The method of

ſetting

ſetting here recommended, will alſo find winter employment for a multitude of women and children; which circumſtance becomes a matter of high conſideration ſince the introduction of ſpinning machines, that are now multiplied all over the kingdom, conſequently ſpinning by hand will be nearly laid aſide; therefore every thing that will add to the uſeful employment of the poor, ought to be eagerly embraced.

Of the exemplary good effect of ſetting grain by hand has over the broad-caſt practice, is no where more viſible than in the neighbourhood of Aloſt, near Bruſſels, in Flanders: the difference is ſo ſtriking, that the blades appear two different kinds of grain, and the produce anſwers to the different ſize of the ſtalk, both in weight and quantity. Nor is the ſetting by hand ſo tedious as may be imagined, a woman, with a couple of children, will plant eaſily an acre a day.

There is one ſort of grain which might be made infinitely more uſeful to us than it is; I mean buck, or French wheat: this grain will grow on the pooreſt and lighteſt ſoils, and yields a great produce, from fifteen to forty buſhels an acre, and the ſeed neceſſary to ſow an acre ſhould not exceed ten or eleven quarts.

The

The flour, it is true, is not ſo good for bread as that of ſome other grains; but when it is properly mixed and roſe, there is no ſubſtance that makes ſo good a thin cake, of the crumpet kind, when hot. This article is excellent for hogs or poultry; the meat made by buck wheat being ſingularly white and delicate. Another advantage from raiſing this grain is, that it improves land inſtead of impoveriſhing it; and thouſands of acres of light land, in the States of New Jerſey, New York, and Penſylvania, are conſtantly manured by ſowing buck wheat and ploughing it in when in bloſſom, as a dreſſing before it is ſowed with wheat. Sheep, and other animals, are fond of it green, and the grain is as ſerviceable as oats for horſes. As buck wheat is ſowed late in the ſummer, the flower is a great reſource for bees, eſpecially young ſtocks, that are often obliged to work hard to obtain their winter ſupply of honey, and the means, in the fall of the year, grow very ſcanty. The immenſe quantity of the fineſt wheat, rye, and barley ſtraw, that is thrown under the feet of cattle, litter for horſes, and ſquandered a thouſand various ways, would maintain 300,000 head of horned beaſts. Surely this is no trifling object to a country become ſo deſtitute

of

of animal food; and when the pretences for ſuch waſteful conduct is that of making manure, and it is alſo ſaid we have more winter provender than ſummer; this is an advantage ſcarce any other country enjoys, and how eaſily and profitably remedied, when the encreaſed number of animals would fully ſupply the place of the manure, and by much better. Nor can it be paſſed unobſerved, that in few countries are horſes littered in the manner of our's; and is, I doubt not, a great cauſe why we have more foundered than in any nation, and our horſes become ſo delicate as to be little fit for military purpoſes. The Continental European cavalry are principally ſupported by ſtraw and grain; and it is unneceſſary to make any remark on the courage of their horſes, their activity, hardineſs, and docility.

As one of the moſt material conſiderations for a farmer, is to obtain manure in plenty, I have often reflected on the prodigious quantity waſted and loſt in our large towns, particularly in London, where tens of thouſands of tons, or loads, are waſhed away into the Thames. If by any contrivance it could be ſaved, and certainly ſuch contrivance might be done, without the leaſt affecting the health of the people, or cleanlineſs of the place, the

the profit to the nation would be worth the income of St. Kitt's and Barbadoes. In Rome, where the population was at leaſt three times that of London, the utmoſt care was taken to preſerve and collect manure, and officers appointed to ſee it was not wantonly deſtroyed. In a word, we have in ourſelves ſuch reſources of abundance, that were we to check a little of that Quixotick part of our character, England would become a magazine, and Britain invulnerable.

In a country like this, where vegetables are, or might be, ſo plentiful, ſo good, and ſo cheap, it is pity the poor did not change their mode of dreſſing their meat, and inſtead of roaſting, baking, broiling, or frying, they would employ the pot, and make with their meat a quantity of ſoup; with a little practice, they would be as expert in that kind of cookery as the French and other nations, and both they and their children would ſoon feel the comfort and profit; but as I have before ſaid, no faſhion, or even prudence, will be followed here, except the example is ſet by the rich, it would be well if gentlemen gave orders for ſoup to be a ſtanding diſh at their tables. Not that ſtrong ſoup, which is nearly gravy,

and highly unwholeſome, but any of the vegetable and farinacious kinds made by our neighbours. Theſe come cheap, are agreeable, and extremely ſalubrious; ſuch as cabbage, onion, leek, lettuce, ſorrel, carrots, parſnips, &c. of the former ſort; and peas, rice, barley, lentils, caravances, dried white or French beans; this laſt pulſe is made great uſe of in many countries, and it encreaſes in bulk ſo much by ſtewing it gently, that one pint of beans, with one pound of ſalt fat pork, will be a ſufficient meal for three hearty men, without the aſſiſtance of bread. The great difference this change would make in the expenditure of animal food, is well known to all who have travelled on the Continent; for Lord Kaims very wiſely obſerves, that high cookery depopulates like a peſtilence, becauſe when it becomes an art, it brings within the compaſs of one ſtomach what is ſufficient for ten. Nor would it be a raſh conjecture to ſay, that the quantity of animal juices thrown away daily in this kingdom, would be ſufficient to nouriſh two or three hundred thouſand perſons.

It is neceſſary once more to mention tea, in order to introduce to the general acquaintance of the nation an article that has been entirely

tirely overlooked as a food. I mean chocolate and cocoa, ſo uſefully and generally uſed by the Spaniards.

Our neighbours, the French, drink conſtantly coffee, and employ tea only as a medicine, for which purpoſe it is ſerviceable, as alſo to the rich, the idle, and the ſedendary, whoſe ſtomachs are generally overloaded; but to the poor who have only dry bread, or dry bread ſkimmed over with bad butter, to eat with their tea, it creates ſuch a gnawing in their ſtomachs, that, to remedy the feeling, they fly conſtantly to the dram ſhop; and, from the effect of both liquors, they and their infants become puny, ſickly, and unhealthy.

The proper food, as before ſaid, for poor women and children, ſhould be milk or milk porrage; but if that cannot be obtained in large cities and towns (for in country places no excuſe can be admitted) and for the ſake of aſſiſting *commerce*, other diet than the natural one of the land muſt be reſorted to, Chocolate ſhould be adopted; it is the beſt ſubſtitute for milk perhaps in nature; and it is acknowledged to be highly nouriſhing and delicious, although eaſy of digeſtion, and withal is one of the *cheapeſt* diluted foods that can be procured.

I know I ſhall be read with aſtoniſhment

for this laſt aſſertion, when the extravagant price of chocolate in England is looked at, of four or five ſhillings per pound. Yet ſome reaſons may be given why it bears ſo diſproportionate a price, when compared with the prices of other places; namely, the high duty and exciſe, with the ſmallneſs of its conſumption.

In Spain and Portugal the price is under one ſhilling per pound for very good quality; and in the United States of America it ſells as low as eight to ten pence ſterling per pound, although they frequently bring the cocoa-nuts from Old Spain. Was the growth of the cocoa-tree encouraged in our ſettlements, and large importations of the nut procured, we aſſuredly could manufacture chocolate as cheap as any other nation.

It ſhould be known, that one ounce of chocolate, if even of middling quality, will make three pints of an excellent beverage, to which added half a pint of milk and two table ſpoonfulls of molaſſes or treacle, will, with bread, furniſh a ſufficient meal for four children or two men: the longer the chocolate is in diluting the better, and it will keep ready for heating many days in perfect goodneſs, conſequently its preparation is œconomical.

Independent of a cheap and nouriſhing food for

for the people, by the introduction of chocolate and coffee for general conſumption, the change will be attended with many important national advantages.

In the firſt place, it will eſſentially ſerve our Weſt India Iſlands, ſeveral of which have only a ſmall portion of land fit for ſugar, as Dominica, Grenada, St. Vincent's, and Tobago; yet the reſt of the ſoil might be profitably planted with cocoa and coffee-trees, was there a conſumption at home.

Secondly, it will require four or five times the quantity of ſhipping to bring cocoa and coffee, as is now employed to bring tea.

The French, before their Weſt India troubles in 1788, 1789, and 1790, employed three hundred ſail of ſhips to bring to Europe their coffee only, and ſupplied Germany and the North. It is alſo well known, the cargoes of the Spaniſh ſhips, from their ſettlements in America and the Weſt Indies, are one-fifth cocoa.

Thirdly, it will ſave the nation annually more than one million of pounds ſterling in hard caſh ſent to China, for which we can never have a counterbalance; this is one great cauſe why the French have twice the quantity of bullion that we have; for their trade to China is trifling compared to ours, even in peace.

peace. And if the Eaſt India trade is valuable to Britain, the part of it to China is certainly the leaſt ſo. How neceſſary for us to introduce this alteration of diet, not only for the increaſe of food, but alſo to employ our ſhipping in times of peace, when ſo many freſh rivals have ſtarted up during this war, and who will conteſt the carrying trade with us after it is ended.

It ſhould be added, that the revenue will be ſerved by this meaſure; for both cocoa and coffee will bear a moderate duty, and as the weight of conſumption will be four-fold that of tea, it will encreaſe in productiveneſs; nor will they from their bulk be ſo liable to be ſmuggled.

The Eaſt India Company, the only party that profits by the importation of tea, might eaſily indemnify themſelves by the growth of the cocoa-tree in India, where the quality would certainly be as good as the Caracca; in reſpect to coffee, they muſt be the only importers of the beſt kind, the conſumption of which would be immenſe, and it cannot be doubted that very patriotic body will zealouſly eſpouſe every means that will eſſentially ſerve their country.

One of the worſt evils, not only to the nation,

tion, but to many of the individuals themſelves, is the ignorance of almoſt all our gentlemen of large landed property, in reſpect to huſbandry. There ought to be eſtabliſhed ſeveral ſeminaries for *agriculture*, at which the ſons of all noblemen and gentlemen ſhould be fixed for a certain time, and where they ſhould be taught the practical part of farming; for it is impoſſible, by any reading or theoretical reaſoning, to become a good farmer: it would then frequently happen, that thoſe who make miſerable compoſitions in Greek and Latin, would turn up a neater furrow than the ableſt Grecian in college, and be of infinite more worth to ſociety at large: for it is certain that every Greek or Latin word remembered very ſoon after leaving the Univerſity, coſts at leaſt a guinea each, and to a large majority of thoſe who go there, is never of ſervice during life. For want of ſuch a uſeful mode of education that is here recommended, young gentlemen, when misfortunes befal them, are really fit for nothing; and it is particularly hard on them, as moſt frequently their property is loſt by the confederacy of ſharpers and villains. But were they acquainted with the practical part of farming, and imbibed a reſpect for that firſt of occupations, after having ſuffered by their inexperience, they would return into the country,

country, and find in agriculture, health, ſtrength, and happineſs with content, and become the moſt ſerviceable members of the commonwealth.

The Turks, a wiſe and experienced people, in the place of teaching their children dead and uſeleſs languages, which are now laying aſide in the education of youth in ſeveral countries, compel every boy to learn ſome handicraft trade, or work, on land; they do not even exempt the heir apparent to that immenſe empire. It is a truth which any ſuperficial obſerver may aſcertain, that one-third of the landholders in this kingdom are obliged to paſs a life of ſtrict œconomy, and ſome even in penury, while their tenants are enjoying the greateſt plenty. This is one of the cauſes why ſo many country gentlemen fly to London, where they can hide the defects of their purſes by the appearance of wealth, and with occaſional oſtentation deceive their companions into the opinion, that faſhion and gentility are altogether the motives for their abſence from their native homes. Many, very many good conſequences would ariſe, if gentlemen were induced by any motives to become practical farmers: from the liberality of their minds, education, and acquaintance, they would ſoon ſee the uſefulneſs and neceſſity

of

of upholding the ſmall farmer, and providing for the peaſant in a different manner to what is now done; inſtead of giving the latter money, which is commonly ſpent imprudently, they would put in his hands the means of providing for his family, plenty with health and comfort: the labouring man has many hours in the courſe of the year which he would gladly devote to the improvement of his ſmall ſpot, and his wife and children would chearfully aſſiſt him. It would, moreover, render him enthuſiaſtically attached to his native country, which zeal, in times of danger, is beyond all the diſcipline and mechanical courage in the world. Beſides, the ſpade cultivates the earth better than the plough, and ſoldiers who can make a ready uſe of it, are of the utmoſt advantage on all military expeditions.

In a word, no married man who lives in the country ought to be without ſome ſpot to improve; nor ſhould any family that has children be without the uſe of a cow; if not able to purchaſe one of their own, let the pariſh do it, and when ſhe became old ſhe ſhould be ſold, and a young one bought; two acres of tolerable land will find her ſupport, and this natural and eaſy means alone, we may ſafely

affirm, would reduce the poor's rate one half annually. The value of milk for food is ſo great, that too much cannot be ſaid in its praiſe.

The climate of this kingdom is ſo temperate, and the ſoil in general naturally good, that no ſpot ought to be neglected or unimproved; and was that minute attention paid to huſbandry, which is to all our manufactories, I will boldly pronounce two, if not three times the number of inhabitants, could be maintained in the greateſt plenty. We ſhould not then feel the loſs, in ſo ſenſible a degree as we now do, of the vaſt drain of men conſtantly leaving the nation, nine-tenths of them never to return. The number, even in times of peace, is ſo great, that it will ſcarce be believed, except by thoſe who had an opportunity of ſeeing them abroad. It would not be a raſh conjecture to ſay, that upwards of fifteen thouſand of the moſt enterprizing and daring of our people are loſt to England alone, every year, viz. in the Eaſt Indies, Weſt Indies, Coaſt of Guinea, America, die at ſea or in foreign garriſons. But in time of war, the mortality is dreadful; and yet we are as careleſs of our numbers as if we had the reſource of France or Ruſſia for our ſupport, where the births

laſt

laſt year in the Republic, ſay 1798, male and female, much exceeded one million; and by an account, publiſhed by authority, this year, at Peterſburgh, the number of births in that empire were 991,915; the marriages were 257,513; and only 540,390 deaths; the eparchy of Brazlaw is excepted.

That we have large quantities of unimproved land, the following official ſtatement will prove; and alſo the probable annual value of it, even in the rental, viz.

1,000,000	of acres, uncultivable value - -	£. 0,000,000
3,000,000	ditto, proper for plantation, at 8s. -	1,200,000
14,000,000	ditto, upland paſture, at 5s, - - -	3,500,000
3,000,000	ditto, tillage land, at 10s. - - - -	1,500,000
1,000,000	ditto, meadow land, at 1l. 10s. - -	1,500,000
22,000,000	ditto, which might produce - -	£. 7,700,000

to the landholders; and it is but fair to ſay, it would to the nation be worth double that amount.

Then why ſend our people rambling to every barren uncomfortable ſpot on the known globe, to obtain miſerable and ſcanty ſettlements?

That almoſt every part of this kingdom might be made a garden, there are not wanting many ſtriking examples of improvement, and no one more than that of Spring Grove,

near Bewdley, in Worceſterſhire, where the owner * had the reſolution to take in two hundred acres of common land of the worſt quality in that county, being almoſt an entire rock, covered only with a very little ſoil and heath, yet notwithſtanding its poverty, he has rendered it by his ability and perſeverance highly fruitful, and alſo one of the moſt charming villas in England. Such valuable members of ſociety deſerve ſtatues to their memories, as their philanthropic labours are of ſervice to us all. Nor does one drop of human gore ſtain the merit of ſuch enterprizes. The farm-yard of this gentleman is well worthy of attention, as his ſtock of mules, for number, ſize, and quality, is perhaps ſuperior to that of any other perſon in this kingdom; moſt of them are fifteen hands high, bony and large in proportion, with them he does all his farming work, and theſe animals drag the plough quicker than any other.

The mule, whoſe uſeful qualities are almoſt unknown to us, is exceeding active, ſtrong, hardy, and ſo durable, that with tolerable care he lives to a very great age, and may be rode or worked forty or fifty years in full vigour. With a team of good mules a farmer is ſupplied for life, and at a much leſs expence than

* Samuel Skey, Esq.

horſes.

horſes. Indeed the mule deſerves the ſerious thoughts and attention of all perſons who have draught work to perform. The gentleman before mentioned, keeps likewiſe a large ſtock of hogs, which he feeds on the roots of the mangel wertel, potatoes, turnips, &c. and on ſuch food they thrive ſo well, no ſwine in that neighbourhood are equal to his. I mention this laſt circumſtance to prove that the valuable creature the hog, can be raiſed, kept, and fatted on vegetables as well as on grain, and, in deſpight of our national prejudice, the meat is quite as good.

From the various examples which I have brought forward, and from the facts which I have ſtated, the following concluſions may be drawn, namely, that a reduction in the ſize of moſt farms is indiſpenſable, to obtain a conſtant abundance of all the neceſſaries of life, as well as to provide ſettlements for an encreaſed number of young farmers and cottagers, and thereby prevent emigrating from their native homes, two of the moſt uſeful claſſes of ſubjects.

But it is ſaid, and ſaid by perſons whoſe opinions bear great weight in the nation on agricultural concerns, that it is uſeleſs, and improper, to make any alteration in the magnitude

nitude of farms, becauſe grain and other proviſions, will, like merchandize, always find its level: no doubt it does find a level from one end of the kingdom to the other, and the connection is ſo intimate between the ſeveral parts, there is no material difference in the price of all the major articles of food. If thoſe gentlemen mean, it is as probable while the land is ſo engroſſed by large farmers, that the indiſpenſable neceſſaries of life will be as plentiful and cheap as if the farms were divided, then I totally differ with them, it is contrary to univerſal obſervation, and to the opinions of many of the moſt eminent and diſtinguiſhed philoſophers and legiſlators that ever exiſted: beſides, there is no ſporting with the belly; and a very celebrated hiſtorian obſerves, that of all inſurrections, the moſt deſperate are thoſe occaſioned by famine. All the produce of England is become an eaſy ſpeculation, and a few individuals, ſpeaking comparatively, can command the whole; they therefore know the annual conſumption, and I am afraid raiſe grain, &c. accordingly. But let us conſider with trembling, what imminent danger we expoſe the nation to, when fifty or ſixty wealthy men can lay their hands on all its produce, and thereby leave the maſs

of

of the people to the mercy, whim, or perhaps policy of foreign nations, to diſtreſs and impoſe on us, for in ſpite of all the attention of Parliament, it is now actually the caſe. To furniſh proviſions for a great and populous nation by the means of importation, is undoubtedly the moſt abſurd conduct that can be purſued; independent of expoſing the country, I will again repeat, to diſtreſs and convulſion; the loſs by waſte is ſo conſiderable on the ſhipping and landing articles of this kind, that I will venture to aſſert it exceeds on all fifteen per cent, and on ſome, ſuch as flour, wheat, &c. twenty per cent from waſte, ſpoiled, and other accidents. One inſtance, among a multitude, to prove the ill effect of truſting to a foreign market, I will mention, that in the year 1797, two French privateers captured ſix Iriſh proviſion-ſhips, that had not more than two hundred tons of butter on board, and yet ſo ſmall a capture advanced the price in London more than fifteen per cent: and the wheat and flour market has been, and is, frequently very violently agitated, by only the appearance of a privateer on the Norfolk coaſt. I mention this laſt fact to ſhew in part the evil of not having more flour-mills in the neighbourhood of London,

London, on the banks of the Thames; and ſpeaking individually, it is a great pity that artful combination, and thoughtleſs prejudice, deprived the city of that monument of good ſenſe and utility, the Albion Mills.

Is it not a great diſgrace to England, ſo long famed for her excellent cheeſe, to behold the immenſe quantities of Dutch and Flemiſh cheeſe expoſed for ſale in our warehouſes and ſhops, a kind of cheeſe our fathers would have ſpurned at? It is true we are grown wealthy in caſh, but our markets are grown poor and ſcanty; and the nation may be truly ſaid to live by the penny; and if we go on at this rate, the labour of all our manufacturers and mechanics will ſcarce be ſufficient to buy us proviſions.

An immediate increaſe in the breed of cows, oxen, hogs, &c. ſhould be adopted, and Parliament ought to take the moſt vigorous and ſpeedy meaſures accordingly to prevent the killing of calves for a given time, to reſtore the neceſſary ſtock of cows, and alſo that no beef of the ox kind ſhould be killed under ſix or ſeven years old, with ſevere penalties for breach of this law, which is needful to procure the introduction of oxen in general uſe, for the various purpoſes of heavy

heavy labour, and thereby gradually reduce the neceſſity of employing horſes. It ſhould be remarked, that the ox ſhould be broke to the yoke gradually at a very early age, to render him quite handy and tractable, and learn him to ſtep quick, which depends very much on the driver: it would alſo be well, if public experiments were made on the difference of ſtrength between the ox and the horſe, to eradicate the ridiculous notion moſt people in this kingdom entertain, that it requires two oxen to perform the work of one horſe, whereas it is nearly the reverſe: the ox being not only much ſtronger than the horſe, but he draws ſteadier and firmer up hill, and holds back better on going down one. Premiums ſhould be given on theſe occaſions, or according to the faſhion of the country, wagers laid. I am ſatisfied, were the heavy long ſtage waggons to be drawn by oxen properly trained, they would perform their journies at leaſt as ſoon as horſes, if the drivers did their duty, and at a much leſs expence every way.

The finiſhing thoſe canals already begun, and opening others, ought to be attended to with unremitting perſeverance; their extreme utility in aſſiſting the eaſy tranſportation of proviſions, and the carriage of manure, is not

yet ſufficiently known to intereſt the nation ſo much as the object is worthy. But as one example to ſhew their good effects, a canal of no great length in Wales, has put out of uſe five thouſand horſes, and yet ten times the buſineſs is done in its neighbourhood, and will render that part of the kingdom, from the improvements in its agriculture, and from the inexhauſtible bodies of the moſt uſeful minerals in the bowels of the mountains, infinitely more valuable to Great Britain than the mines of Potoſi to the Spaniards.

To conclude theſe reflections, I ſhall touch on the ſubject of an encreaſed population ſo wiſely hinted at by the Biſhop of Landaff, in his celebrated ſpeech in the Houſe of Lords, on the 11th of April 1799. That population may be augmented very rapidly without a convulſive change of manners, innumerable inſtances can be produced on the beſt authorities. Boſſuet aſſures us in his Univerſal Hiſtory, that Abderam king of Cordova, on the cloſe of a moſt murderous war, found his nation ſo greatly exhauſted of people, that he applied all his attention to agriculture and population; and in leſs than thirty years, the cenſus of his ſubjects was encreaſed threefold. We have the authority of Lord M^c^Cartney,

ney, and the gentlemen who went with him on that embaſſy, to affirm, that the principal care of the Chineſe government is to encreaſe the quantity of proviſions and the number of inhabitants. The ſtatiſtical account they have furniſhed us with exceeds credibility. The empire of China containing 236,000,000 of ſouls, a number more than double the people of all Europe. The Hollanders, who made many uſeful obſervations on the conduct of the Chineſe, and cloſely imitated them where poſſible, have a population, as two to one, more than France for each ſquare mile: and yet the French are ſo ſenſible of the importance of numbers, that whenever they can employ men in place of horſes, they do it. One ſtrong example of this ſound policy ſtrikes the eye of every traveller on his firſt landing in France, when he beholds men performing the buſineſs done by horſes with us, ſuch as drawing goods from ſhips or from one part of a town to another. I have heard Engliſhmen ſpeak with contempt of this practice, and as a proof of the poverty of the country and the people, without once reflecting, that three or four men can draw as much as one horſe; and that one horſe would conſume the produce of the land that maintains thoſe four perſons; con-

quently there is the ſupport for four hardy men for each horſe, that are ready for the defence of the nation: and that by ſuch means as this they have not only bid defiance to the greateſt part of Europe, but actually put it under contribution.

The government of Sweden has turned its ſerious attention to an encreaſe of population, and the northernmoſt part of that cold country called Lapmarchan, which was wholly uninhabited forty years ago, has at the preſent day ſeveral hundred thouſand inhabitants.

But how great has been the ſurprize and ignorance of a large majority of the people of England, to find, that *Ireland*, a country connected with us by every tie that can cement two people, has a population that exceeds four millions and one half, although the proportion of ſize of the two countries ſtands nearly as ſeven Ireland to ſixteen England; therefore England ought, was it on a par of population with Ireland, to poſſeſs 10,300,000 inhabitants, which we unfortunately know is wide from the truth.

The United States of America, where the population is more than doubled every twenty-five years, is not mentioned, becauſe it may be urged againſt that circumſtance, that the immenſe

menſe emigration from ſeveral parts of Europe add greatly to the maſs.

The ſubject of agriculture is capable of ſuch extenſion, and ſo meritorious to the miniſtry of any nation that cloſely attends to it, that I flatter myſelf the diſtreſſes we have had, and do experience, will ſo open our eyes, that this ſubject will receive the aid of all the abilities in the kingdom; and that every perſon who values the ſafety, happineſs, and proſperity of his native land, will throw in his mite towards the perfection of this invaluable ſcience.

THE END.

C. WHITTINGHAM, *Printer*,
Dean Street, Fetter Lane, London.

NEW BOOKS

PRINTED FOR

H. D. SYMONDS, No. 20, PATERNOSTER-ROW.

---

1. *AN ELEGANT COMMON PRAYER BOOK.*

THE COMMON PRAYER, and ADMINISTRATION OF THE SACRAMENTS, and other Rites and Ceremonies, according to the Uſe of the Church of England: With the NEW VERSION of the PSALMS. Neatly printed with a beautiful Type, caſt on purpoſe by Mr. CASLON, and carefully hot-preſſed.

*** This Edition of the COMMON PRAYER will not be found too bulky for the Pocket, at the ſame time it is printed on ſo legible a Type as to ſuit every Claſs of Readers. It is likewiſe regularly paged, with a copious Contents and Reference to the Pages, which is not to be found in any other edition. Price without Pſalms 7s. 6d. with the New Verſion of Pſalms 9s. handſomely bound in black, and gilt edges.

2. PIOUS REFLECTIONS FOR EVERY DAY IN THE MONTH. Tranſlated from the French of FENELON, Archbiſhop of Cambray. A New Edition, with a Sketch of the Life of the Author, and Portrait. Price 1s. ſewed, 1s. 6d. neatly bound.

3. REV. WILLIAM WINTERBOTHAM's GEOGRAPHICAL, COMMERCIAL, AND PHILOSOPHICAL VIEW OF THE PRESENT SITUATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, &c. &c. Illuſtrated with

with numerous large Maps, Charts, and Plates, including the Natural Hiſtory of that Continent, in four large volumes, 8vo. price 1l. 16s. in boards; or in 34 numbers, to be had ſeparately, 1s. each.

4. The Maps and Charts ſeparately, forming a complete American Atlas, on fine paper, coloured, folio, price 1l. 1s. half bound.

5. WALKER's ELEMENTS OF GEOGRAPHY, AND OF NATURAL AND CIVIL HISTORY; WITH THE UNIVERSAL GAZETTEER; or, A CONCISE DESCRIPTION OF ALL PLACES IN THE KNOWN WORLD, in 2 vols. 8vo. price 17s. bound; or in 31 Numbers, to be had ſeparately, 6d. each, containing generally Three Sheets of Letter Preſs and one Map, or Illuſtrative Plate.

6. THE MAPS AND CHARTS SEPARATELY, forming a Complete Atlas; in One Volume coloured, and half-bound, price 7s. 6d.

7. BROOKES's GENERAL GAZETTEER; or, COMPENDIOUS GEOGRAPHICAL DICTIONARY: Containing a Deſcription of the Empires, Kingdoms, States, Provinces, Cities, Towns, Forts, Seas, Harbours, Rivers, Lakes, Mountains, Capes, &c. in the known world; with the Government, Cuſtoms, Manners, and Religion of the Inhabitants, &c. &c. illuſtrated by Maps. Tenth edition, large 8vo. price 8s. bound; or with Maps coloured, 9s. 6d.

8. THE PHILOSOPHY OF MEDICINE: or MEDICAL EXTRACTS on the NATURE of HEALTH and DISEASE, including the Laws of the Animal Œconomy and the Doctrines of Pneumatic Medicine. By Robert John Thornton, M.D. In 5 vols. 8vo. 4th Edition, embelliſhed with elegant Anatomical and other Engravings. Price 2l. 12s. 6d. boards.

9. THE LONDON MEDICAL REVIEW AND MAGAZINE, by a Society of Phyſicians and Surgeons. Vol. I. including Six Monthly Numbers, from March to Auguſt 1798, price 9s. in boards. To be continued monthly, price 1s. 6d. per number.

10. THE PHYSICIAN's VADE MECUM; being a Compendium of Noſology and Therapeutics, for the Uſe of Students.

Students. By the Rev. Joſeph Townſend, Rector of Pewſey, Wilts. Fifth edition, price 4s. ſewed.

11. MEDICAL ADMONITIONS TO FAMILIES, reſpecting DOMESTIC MEDICINE, THE PRESERVATION OF HEALTH, AND THE TREATMENT OF THE SICK, &c. AT THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF THE DISEASE. By JAMES PARKINSON. 2 vols. 8vo. Second Edition, conſiderably enlarged. Price 9s. boards.

12. SHERIDAN's COMPLETE DICTIONARY of the ENGLISH LANGUAGE, both with Regard to SOUND and MEANING; one main object of which is, to eſtabliſh a plain and permanent STANDARD of PRONUNCIATION. To which is prefixed, a PROSODIAL GRAMMAR. Fifth edition, reviſed, corrected, and enlarged, in 2 vols. 8vo. price 14s. bound.

The ſame in octo-decimo, or ſmall pocket ſize.

13. BELISAIRE ET FRAGMENS DE PHILOSOPHIE MORALE, par M. MARMONTEL, de L'Académie Françoiſe. NOUVELLE EDITION, avec la Signification des mots les plus difficiles en Anglois, au bas de chaque page revue et ſoigneuſement corrigée par N. WANOSTROCHT, Docteur en Droit. 12mo. price 3s. 6d. bound.

14. LES VOYAGES DE CYRUS, avec un DISCOURS ſur la Théologie et la Mythologie des Anciens. Par M. RAMSAY. Nouvelle Edition, avec la Signification des mots les plus difficiles en Anglois au bas de chaque page revue et ſoigneuſement corrigée par N. WANOSTROCHT, Docteur en Droit. 12mo. price 3s. 6d. bound.

15. GOLDSMITH's ABRIDGMENT OF THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND, from the Invaſion of Julius Cæſar to the Death of George the Second; continued by an eminent Writer down to the preſent time. Eleventh edition, price. 3s 6d. bound.

16. BEAUTIES OF HISTORY; or, PICTURES OF VIRTUE AND VICE, drawn from Real Life: deſigned for the Inſtruction and Entertainment of Youth. Tenth edition, by L. M. STRETCH, Vicar of Twyford and Ouſelbury, Hampſhire, 12mo, price 3s. 6d. bound.

BRITISH MUSEUM